THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) the Group of 77 (G-77) South Summit of developing countries was held in Havana, Cuba from 10—14 April, 2000. The Summit adopted three documents viz. the Declaration, the Havana Programme of Action, and a paper on South-South Cooperation.

In the Programme of Action, it was agreed that the South Commission would be transformed into a South Coordinating Commission to oversee implementation of the Programme of Action. It was also noted that since the establishment of Group of 77 in 1964, developing countries have formulated a number of platforms, strategies and Plans of Action on South-South Cooperation. Taken together with such action-oriented South-South programmes adopted by the Non-Aligned Movement, these documents set out a comprehensive philosophy and framework of action aimed at promoting an intensified pattern of cooperation among developing countries in a wide range of areas such as trade, investment, technical cooperation, industrialization, energy, food and agriculture and technology.

The South Summit also decided to establish Groups of Experts, in their individual capacities, to review and comment upon the agendas of major multilateral conferences in order to help provide guidance on the objectives and goals of the developing countries, so that these objectives and goals are appropriately reflected in the outcomes of such conferences.

The Summit did not make any mention about the setting up specific working groups on issues such as international trade, capital flows, etc.

(c) India played an active and leading role in the discussions in Havana. It also helped the Summit to highlight the main concerns of the developing countries, and to identify action needed to be taken within the South-South and the North-South context to bring development issues in focus in all multilateral institutions and policy-making processes.

FBI Director's New Delhi Visit

4168. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-US Cooperation for combating international terrorism and narco terrorism would be further strengthened/focused with the Federal

Bureau of Investigation (FBI) setting up its office in New Delhi particularly the cross border terrorism originating from Pak side;

(b) whether FBI director recently visited New Delhi and held talks with Indian Intelligence Bureau and Central Bureau of Investigation;

(c) if so, what were the details of discussion/outcome thereof and when the Indian team likely to visit USA; and

(d) which are the other countries where FBI offices are located at present country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The opening of the Legal Attached Office in US Embassy New Delhi to be manned by two FBI officers may be seen in the context of growing Indo-US bilateral co-operation on counter-terrorism, the setting up of a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, the signing of the Extraditon Treaty between India and the United States, and the proposed negotiation on the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, all of which will serve to enhance the institutional co-operation between the two countries in this area.

(b) Yes Sir, Director of FBI visited New Delhi on April 4-6, 2000 and met, among others, Director of CBI and Director of IB.

(c) They discussed possibilities of co-operation in law enforcement and counter-terrorism. The talks have brought about better appreciation of each other's preception in this important area of co-operation.

(d) The list of 31 countries where FBI has similar offices is attached.

List of Location of Legal Attached Offices

ATHENS	BANGKOK	BERN
BOGOTA	BONN	BRIDGETOWN
BRUSSELS	BUDAPEST	CAIRO
CANBERRA CARACAS	HONG KONG	ISLAMABAD
KIEV	LONDON	MADRID
MANILA	MEXICOCITY.	MONTEVIDEO
MOSCOW	OTTAWA	PANAMA CITY

PARIS	RIYADH	ROME
SANTIAGO	TALLINN	TEL AVIV
TOKYO	VIENNA	WARSAW

Denial of Visa to former Bangladesh Prime Minister

4169. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have refused to give visa to the former Bangladesh Prime Minister Mahdud Ahmad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) for how long has the visa been denied ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Mr. Moudud Ahmed was refused a visa in April 1997 because he had openly advocated the dismemberment of India. No visa application from Mr. Ahmad has since been received.

Time Period Fixed for Issuing a Passport

4170. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time period has been fixed for preparing passports after submitting the applications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) steps taken for making the procedure more quick and simple ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Passports are normally issued within five weeks provided the application is accurately filled with all the required documents and the clear Police Verification Report has been received. This period is being adhered to in most of the Passport Offices. Delays are due to seasonal rise in passport applications and shortage of staff.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The simplification and streamlining of procedures for issue of